Secrt. II-37—100,000—23-5-47.

Food (1948) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No. 307

Dated 6-4-48

[Despatch Abstract.]

Food situation - Deficit districts Apprehended shortage of food-grains during May and June 1948 - Measures to be taken - Instructions issued - Papers Recorded.

Food Department.
(A)

Memorandum No.12797 A/48-2 dated 2nd April 1948.

Sub: Food situation - Deficit districts - Apprehended shortage of foodgrains during May and June 1948 - Measures to be taken - Instructions issued.

In view of the shortage of foodgrains, likely to occur after May or June 1948 in the districts where the North East Monsoon has failed, and the possibility of some distress being felt in those areas, the Government consider that certain instructions to the local officers in those areas are necessary so that they might be fully prepared to meet such a situation if it does arise, and to tackle it successfully. What will be required is, a certain amount of alertness on the Part of the officials of the Food and the Revenue Departments in particulars and prompt action in regard to the movement and distribution of foodgrains. The Government accordingly direct that the following instructions be followed to meet the situation:-

(1) Every Revenue Inspector should be instructed to submit a report once a week to the concerned Tahsildar, about the food situation in his firka, in a name cover marked "Specially Urgent." The report should specially deal with such questions as whether foodgrains are freely flowing into the market, the prices at which they are being sold, and whether people are wandering about in search of food or work etc.

(2) Each Tahsildar, in his turn should submit a report to the Collector (in a name cover marked "SPECIALLY URGENT") once a fortnight or oftener if necessary, dealing with the same questions. As a working principle, the situation might be considered abnormal if the market price in the area exceeds the notified price by 50% in which case, such areas should be specially watched, and special mention should be made about them in the reports to the Collector . The Tahsildar should send copies of these reports to the Revenue Divisional Officer concerned. The Tahsildar can utilise the services of the Taluk Supply Officer concerned whenever he exists, if necessary for this purpose.

(3) The revenue Divisional Officer should also make constant enquiries about the food situation in his division and about the flow of foodgrains into the market and their prices, during his tours. The fortnightly report which he is now submitting to the Collector should devote a special para to this subject.

(4) The Collector should himself scrutinise these reports carefully and satisfy himself personally that everying is alright in his district. Action shouldbe taken without loss of time. Relief shops are supposed to afford relief to persons who are in need of foodgrains and also bring about a reduction in the market price of the commodity by the supply of foodgrains at controlled prices. As a working rule, prices are reported to have risen upto 50% (i. e. 1½ times) of the notified wholesale prices it is an indication that relief is needed and relief shops should be immediately opened in the area to supply foodgrains to the poor people at controlled rate, thus indirectly counteracting the tendency of prices to rise. If, in spite of this measure the prices continue to soar up and exceed the above limit of 50% the Collector should immediately bring the matter to the notice of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Government. The special reasons if any, for the rise in prices and the steps he considers necessary for bringing down the prices should also be reported.

(5) Special provision should be made for industrial areas, continuing the existing grain shops as far as possible,

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and the allotment of the usual quotas, in view of the fact that industrial labour is a very inflammable material. If in any case the management desires to make its own arrangement for feeding its its industrial population it may be allowed to do so subject to the provision that the stock procured are properly accounted for.

(6) Hostels attached to schools and colleges should also be given special consideration, if and when, the hostel authorities ask for such special consideration.

(7) In view of the possibility of the Railway and the Public Works Department labour, which is better paid than most others, upsetting the market by offering higher prices, and as serious consequences might follow if the supply of foodgrains to these becomes scarce, the Railway and the Public Works Department labour may also be given special consideration,.

(8) Plantations of factories maintained by the Government should also be given special consideration, as otherwise the labour exmployed therein might be diverted to other areas and industries, to the detriment of the Government institutions.

(9) Other plantations may also be given special consideration, provided the necessary stocks are available.

(10) The Collector should start relief works with reference to the instructions already issued wherever people are suffering from want of work or food.

(11) The Collector should in his turn send returns to the Board of Revenue (C.S.) every fortnight about the food position in his district dealing with the points mentioned already, and indicating the number of the relief shops newly opened in the course of the fortnight. A copy of the report should also be submitted to the Government for their information.

(12) Medical Officers in charge of hospitals should keep a watch over the incddence of diseases due to mal-nutrition or starvation, and send periodical reports in the matter to the District Medical Officer, concerned, In cases where any medical officer notices any increase in the number of such cases; he should communicate it immediately to the local Divisional Officer and the Collector of the District.

(13) The Collector should periodically acquint himself with the stock position in the district, and particularly the stocks of foodgrains at his immediate disposal. He should, as far as possible, try to maintain always at least one month(s ~~ratio~~ stock on the basis of the off-take of the previous week.

The Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) is requested to issue instructions accordingly to the Collectors concerned and also such further instructions as it might consider necessary and to send 4 copies to the Govornent for their information.

Sd/-xxxxxx,
25-3-1948.

To the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies)
To the Surgeon-General, with the Government of Madras.
To the Director of Public Health.
Copy to Education and Public Health Department.

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CONFIDENTIAL

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE (CIVIL SUPPLIES) CHEPAUK,MADRAS
V.S.HEJMADI,ESQ.,I.C.S.
Commissioner of Civil Supplies.

Ref.E-46608/48-2(CS) dated 8-5-1948.

Sub: Food Situation - Deficit Districts - Apprehended shortage of foodgrains from the June '48- Measures to be taken - Instructions - Issued.

Owing to the failure of the North East Monsoon and the shortage of foodgrains likely to be felt from June 1948, the Board considers that certain instructions to the local officers in those areas are necessary. The Board desires to impress on the Collectors of the deficit districts that a certain amount of initiative, tact alertness, and fore thought on the part of the officials of the Civil Supplies and Revenue Departments and prompt action in regard to the movement and distribution of food grains are necessary to meet the situation successfully. The high prices now prevailing in extensive tracts all over the Province would seem to indicate that scarcity conditions prevail even now in those areas and that adequate relief has not been arranged by the opening of as many relief shops as the situation would demand. The Board therefore issues the following instructions.

(1) All available surplus stocks should be procured under the levy scheme resorting to compulsory procurement, if necessary in accordance with the instructions issued from time to time in this behalf, so that there may be no boarding by the producers and sufficient stocks may be available for release through relief shops.

(2) The Revenue Inspectors should be instructed to submit a report once a week to the concerned Tahsildar, about the food situation, in his firka, in a name cover marked 'Specially Urgent.' The report should specially deal with the points (1) whether foodgrains are freely flowing into the market (2) whether the stocks are adequate and (3) whether the prices at which they are sold are normal or higher than the ceiling prices fixed. The prices should be compared with the prices in the previous weeks, and again with the notified ceiling prices. The report should also contain information regarding the number of relief shops opened in the week and upto the end of the week in the firka and should state whether people are wandering about in search of food or work and such other important points to enable the Tahsildar to judge the exact food position in the firka. For the sake of uniformity, these reports may relate to week ending Saturday.

(3) The Tahsildar in his turn should submit a report to the Collector (in a name cover marked "Specially Urgent") once a fortnight, or oftener, if necessary, dealing with the same questions. As a working rule, the situation must be considered abnormal, if the market price in the area exceeds the notified wholesale price by 50% in which case, such areas should be specially watched and special mention should be made about them in the reports to the Collector. The Tahsildar should send copies of the reports to the Revenue Divisional Officer concerned. If necessary, the Tahsildar may utilise the services of the Taluk Supply Officer concerned, wherever possible, for this purpose.

(4) The Revenue Divisional Officer should also make constant enquiries about the food situation in his division about

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about the flow of foodgrains into the market and their prices during his tours. The fortnightly report which he is now submitting to t e Collector should denote a special paragraph to this matter.

(5) The Collector should himself scrutinise these reports carefully and satisfy himself personally that everything is alright in his district. Action should be taken without loss of time, where it is indicated. Relief shops are supposed to afford relief to persons who are in need of foodgrains and also to bring about a reduction in t he market price of the commodity by the supply of foodgrains at controlled prices. As a working rule, whenever prices are reported to have risen above 50% (i.e. 1½ times) of the notified wholesale prices, it is an indication that relief is needed and that relief shops should immediately be opened in the area to supply foodgrains to the poor people at controlled rates, thus indirectly counteracting the tendency of prices to rise. The attention of all Collectors, except those of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Tanjore, Madras Malabar, and the Nilgiris, is invited in this connection to the instructions contained in the Board's Confidential D.O.No.56705/ U4/48-1 CS. dated the 3rd May, 1948. If, in spite of the various neatness indicated, the prices continue to soar, the Collector should immediately bring the matter to the notice of the Board and the Government through a special report, mentioning the reasons, if any, for the abnormal rise in prices and the steps he considers necessary to bring down the prices.

(6) Instructions in regard to allotment of quotas and arrangements for feeding in industrial concerns, hotels, plantations etc., will be issued separately. The Collector should start relief works with reference to the instructions already issued wherever people are suffering from want of work or food.

(7) The Medical Officers in charge of hospitals should keep a watch over the incidence of diseases due to mal-nutrition or starvation and send periodical reports in the matter to the District Medical Officers concerned. In cases where any medical officer notices any increase in the number of such cases, he should communicate it immediately to the local Divisional Officer and the Collector of the district concerned.

(8) The Collectors should periodically aquaint himself with the stock position in the district and particularly the stocks of foodgrains at his immediate disposal. He should, as far as possible try to maintain always at least one months stocks on the basis of offtake of the previous week. At present there are adquate stocks of maize, milo and local millets, in all the deficit districts There are considerable quantities of maize and milo in reserve with the Board and the requirements of the deficit districts can be easily met from these stocks.

(9) The Collectors should also see that adequate stocks of groundnuts are kept in the shops for sale to the public as a supplementary food. In this connection the attention of the Collectors is invited to Board's Ref. 22588-J2/48 dated 19-2-1948 and they are requested to ~~intreduce~~ introduce the scheme more vigorously, if shortage of foodgrains is experienced.

N.S.Mani,
Secretary.

To the Collectors of Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah, Chingleput, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Kurnool, Madura, Madras, Malabar, North Arcot, Nilgiris Ramnad, Salem, South Arcot, South Kanara, Trichinopoly, Tinnevelly and Vizagapatam.

Copy to the Collectors of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Nellore, Guntur and Tanjore.
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Food Department, Madras
Copy to A,B,C, E,G,H,J,K1, K2, M, U2,U3,U4,U5, V and Z1 sections.

/Super/
/True copy/

Superintendent.

The papers may be recorded in G.O.Ms.No.307 dated 6-4-1948.

(Note a periodical Register entry for the fortnight report prescribed in item (ii) of the memo and then close. Remind Collectors regularly for the report.)

Sd/-xxxxx,
5-4-48.

Order No. 307 dated 6-4-1948.
Ms.

R e c o r d e d .

Sd/-xxxxxx,
5-4-48.

Abstract:

FOOD SITUATION : DEFICIT DISTRICTS APPREHENDED SHORTAGE OF FOOD GRAINS DURING MAY & JUNE 1948: MEASURES TO BE TAKEN : INSTRUCTIONS : ISSUED : PAPERS : RECORDED.

/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

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